

# Wisbech Rural District Council



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A N N U A L   R E P O R T

O F   T H E

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H .

District Council Offices  
Alexandra Road,  
Wisbech.

M. Doreen C. Martin,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.



WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The Chairman (Mr. G.F.W. Cannon), the Vice-Chairman (Mr. E.J. Humphrey) and the full Council.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH -


M. Doreen C. Martin, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.C.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR -

Alan P. Grant, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & ASSISTANT SURVEYOR -

D. O'Connor, M.A.P.H.I.



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WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1961.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I present, for your consideration, the Annual Report of the Public Health and Welfare of the Rural District of Wisbech for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

I am very grateful to Mr. Grant, Senior Public Health Inspector and all the Staff of the Department for the help they have given me at all times. I am very conscious too of the support of the Chairman and Members of Council and would like to express my appreciation.

I have the honour to be Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

*H. Owen G. Martin*  
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District .....	49,841 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of mid-year population for 1961 .....	12,590
Estimate mid-year population for 1960 .....	12,650
Rateable value 1st April, 1961 .....	£81,445
Rateable value 1st April, 1960 .....	£80,388
Product of a Penny Rate .....	£327
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books ...	4,121.



# VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS - 204

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Birth Rate</u> <u>(adjusted)*</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	91	113			
Legitimate:	84	107			
Illegitimate:	7	6	16.2	16.94	17.4

Area Comparability Factor (Births) 1.00

STILL BIRTHS - 3

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Still Birth</u> <u>Rate **</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	2	1			
Legitimate:	2	1	14.5	17.78	19.1
Illegitimate:	-	-			

DEATHS (All Causes) - 103

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Death Rate</u> <u>(adjusted)***</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
	49	54	8.7	10.89	12.0

Area comparability Factor (deaths) 1.08

DEATHS - Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion - 0

DEATHS - Infants under 1 year of age -

TOTAL: 2

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Infant Mortality</u> <u>Rate ****</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
Legitimate	0	2			
Illegitimate	0	0	9.8	14.73	21.6

- \* Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1961 population  
 \*\* Rate per 1,000 Births (Live and Still).  
 \*\*\* Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1961 population  
 \*\*\*\* Death of infants under 1 year, per 1,000 live births.

# VITAL STATISTICS (Cont'd).

## CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR -

Prematurity - 2

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE -

TOTAL - 2

Legitimate  
Illegitimate

M.  
0  
0

F.  
2  
0

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE - 2

## DEATHS FROM CANCER (All ages) - 22

### LIVE BIRTH RATE

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Wisbech R.D.	15.6	15.9	15.6	15.3	16.99	16.2
Isle of Ely	15.86	16.13	15.78	15.76	16.84	16.94
England & Wales	15.7	16.1	16.4	16.5	17.1	17.4

### STILL BIRTH RATE.

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Wisbech R.D.	30	14.9	39.2	15.3	4.62	14.5
Isle of Ely	15.8	21.14	19.68	25.9	29.34	17.78
England & Wales	23.0	22.4	21.6	20.7	19.7	19.1

### DEATH RATE.

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Wisbech R.D.	8.6	7.9	9.8	11.1	9.39	8.7
Isle of Ely	9.18	11.08	9.82	11.53	10.82	10.89
England & Wales	11.7	11.5	11.7	11.6	11.5	12.0

### INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Wisbech R.D.	15.46	10.1	25.5	41.5	37.21	9.8
Isle of Ely	18.61	20.22	17.92	25.19	29.55	14.73
England & Wales	23.8	23.0	22.5	22.2	21.7	21.6

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Isle of Ely Executive Council - Bank House, West End, March.

Clerk - A. R. Marsh, Esq.,

East Anglian Regional Hospital Board - 117, Chesterton Road,  
Cambridge.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer - Dr. J.B. Ewen.

(a) GENERAL -

- (1) North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.
- (2) Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech.
- (3) Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
- (4) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
- (5) Doddington Hospital, Doddington.

(b) MATERNITY -

Bowthorpe Maternity Home, Wisbech.

(c) INFECTIOUS DISEASES -

Isolation Hospital, Peterborough.  
Hardwick Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.

(d) SANATORIA -

Accommodation is provided through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

(e) MENTAL -

Accommodation is provided (through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board) usually in Fulbourne Hospital. This is arranged directly by the Local General Practitioners.

(f) VENEREAL DISEASE -

- (1) Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge.
- (2) Peterborough Memorial Hospital.
- (3) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

(g) MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SERVICE -

Medical equipment is provided on loan by the St. Johns Ambulance Division and the Red Cross Medical Loan Depot by arrangement with the County Council.



MIDWIFERY, GENERAL SICK AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING -

The Nursing Staff is employed by the Isle of Ely County Council either directly or by arrangement with the County Nursing Association under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

In the Parishes given, all those undertaking midwifery and General Nursing are qualified to administer gas/air analgesia and pethedine, and the necessary number of gas/air machines are available for their use.

ELM, UPWELL AND OUTWELL -

Miss A. Heney,	Q.N.	Relief Midwife; General
Halfpenny Lane,	S.R.N.	Nursing; Public Health
ELM.	S.C.M.	Nursing; School Nurse.
(Wisbech 1806)	H.V.Cert.	

WISBECH ST. MARY AND PARSON DROVE -

Miss B.M. Robinson,	Q.N.	General Nursing and
Nurses House,	S.C.M.	Relief Midwife.
Church Road,		
WISBECH ST. MARY.		

LEVERINGTON, NEWTON AND TYDD ST. GILES -

Miss E.M. Burdett,	Q.N.	Midwifery.
High Road,	S.C.M.	General Nursing.
GOREFIELD.		

## AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

A County Council Service - there are three ambulances garaged at Wisbech Motors Ltd., Norwich Road, Wisbech.

## COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

### Infant Welfare Centres -

(a)	Guyhirn (Village Hall) .....	3rd Thursday.
(b)	Parson Drove (Church Hall) .....	1st Wednesday.
(c)	Leverington (Church Hall) .....	2nd Tuesday.
(d)	Fridaybridge (Church Hall) .....	4th Wednesday.
(e)	Christchurch (Parish Room) .....	1st & 3rd Tuesday.
(f)	Newton (Women's Institute) .....	1st Thursday.

### School Minor Ailment Clinics -

- (a) County Clinics, Lynn Road, Wisbech.
- (b) Beaupre School, Outwell.

### School Dental Clinic -

Lynn Road, Wisbech.

### Home Help Service -

Organised and operated by the County Council.

### Disinfection and Disinfestation -

Premises - By the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.

Bedding and Clothing - which cannot be dealt with by this department are sent to Peterborough Isolation Hospital.

### Laboratory Services -

- (a) Public Health Laboratory Service,  
Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.  
(Director - Dr. Fry).
- (b) Public Analyst,  
S. Greenburgh, P.H.D., BSc., F.R.I.C.  
25, St. Barnabas Road,  
Cambridge.

### Swimming Baths -

During 1961 an unheated, open-air swimming bath has been opened in Newton Primary School. The Public Health Inspector checks on the bacteriological content of the water, and up to date, reports have been satisfactory. The pool is used by children only and, at all times when in use a teacher is in attendance.

### Health Education -

All primiparous women are given the opportunity of attending relaxation and Mother and Baby care classes during their pregnancy. Recognised Women's Meetings e.g. Church groups and Women's Rural Institute Meetings, occasionally ask for a speaker on Health Education, and such requests are readily complied with.



CAUSES OF DEATH - 1961.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other .....	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease .....	1	0	1
Diphtheria .....	0	0	0
Whooping Cough .....	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections .....	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	0	0	0
Measles .....	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	2	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	0	2	2
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	7	5	12
Leukeamia, aleuleamia .....	0	1	1
Diabetes .....	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	7	12	19
Coronary disease, angina .....	7	5	12
Hypertension with heart disease .....	0	1	1
Other heart disease .....	7	11	18
Other circulatory disease .....	2	0	2
Influenza .....	1	0	1
Pneumonia .....	3	1	4
Bronchitis .....	2	0	2
Other diseases of the respiratory system .....	0	0	0
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum .....	3	0	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis .....	2	0	2
Hyperplasia of prostate .....	0	0	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	0	0	0
Congenital malformations .....	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	4	8	12
Motor Vehicle accidents .....	0	1	1
All other accidents .....	0	1	1
Suicide .....	0	1	1
Homicide and operations of war .....	0	0	0
Total -	50	53	103



NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1961.

Notifications:

Dysentery .....	0
Typhoid Fever .....	0
Paratyphoid Fever .....	0
Meningococcal Infections .....	0
Scarlet Fever .....	2
Whooping Cough .....	2
Diphtheria .....	0
Erysipelas .....	5
Smallpox .....	0
Measles .....	54
Pneumonia .....	0
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	
Paralytic .....	0
Non-Paralytic .....	0
Food Poisoning .....	3
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	1
Tuberculosis (all forms) .....	0
Malaria .....	0
Infective Jaundice .....	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	0

The three cases of food poisoning were due to salmonella infection. This family were fond of duck eggs and had eaten freely of them shortly before the baby became ill. It is, of course, most important that duck eggs should be very well cooked whether used in baking, or cooked by themselves. It is perhaps not generally known that duck eggs are a common source of certain of the food poisoning bacteria.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

## HOUSING.

I am indebted to the Senior Public Health Inspector for the following reports.

### Number of Dwellings completed during 1961 -

Council Bungalows	-	11	Private	-	27
Council Houses	-	<u>10</u>			
		21			

### Number of Dwellings under construction at the end of 1961 -

Council Bungalows	-	21	Private	-	14
Council Houses	-	<u>6</u>			
		27			

### UNFIT HOUSES -

The following number of unfit houses were dealt with :

16	Demolition Orders
14	Closing Orders
5	Undertakings, not to re-let.

There are approximately 290 sub-standard houses distributed in the parishes as follows -

Elm	-	49
Leverington	-	71
Newton	-	14
Outwell	-	16
Parson Drove	-	22
Tydd St. Giles	-	16
Upwell	-	28
Wisbech St. Mary	-	74

### RENT ACT, 1957 -

During the year an application for the revocation of a Certificate of Disrepair was made by the owners of one property. It was found that all the necessary repairs had not been carried out and the application was refused.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS -

Applications for grants for improvement of private dwellings have been dealt with jointly by the Public Health and Architect's Departments as in previous years. During the year Discretionary grants were approved for 13 houses to a total of £4,364. Standard grants were approved for 13 houses to a total of £1,711.

It is obvious that full advantage is not being taken of the improvement grant system by the public. Whether this is because of lack of knowledge of the facts or an attitude of apathy is not known. The fact remains however, that many good houses in the district could be improved and that all possible encouragement should be given to householders. This in effect would help the housing position in the district by providing a pool of good houses provided with all modern amenities.

## BUILDING BYELAWS -

The examination of all plans submitted under the Building Byelaws, preparation of reports to the Planning Committee, and subsequent inspection of work in progress, is carried out by the Public Health Department, and during the year, 248 plans were dealt with.

## CESSPOOL AND PRIVY EMPTYING -

The one cesspool emptier operated by a crew of two men was working to capacity throughout the year; in all, 1,325 loads were taken from 1,211 domestic cesspools and privies; and 165 loads of sludge were removed from the Council's Sewage Disposal Plants on 17 Housing Estates.

The standard of sewage effluent from some of the various plants was not good, as reported upon by the Pollutions Officer of the River Board and your Housing Officer together with your Architect are working to eliminate any defects to which may be attributed such low standard.

Once more the cesspool emptier contents disposal problem has reared its ugly but not unfamiliar face and shows no improvement. The new legislation coming into operation with regard to the pollution of waterways must mean an unsympathetic response from the River Boards, unless a purified effluent is produced which I think means that a disposal system should be married in some way with the existing Council's sewage disposal plants. It is no exaggeration to state that without such disposal points the whole system of collection and disposal during the winter months could become a major public health problem. Already it is not unusual for people to be waiting for cesspools to be emptied for periods of three weeks or more.



## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL -

A fortnightly collection of refuse is carried out over practically the whole of the district, and twice weekly collection for a three-quarters of the year from the Agricultural Camp at Fridaybridge. The service is operated by a crew of two men with one vehicle.

During the year approximately 2,184 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of.

During the early part of the year refuse was disposed of in the Wisbech Borough tip at Mouse Drove, Guyhirne. For the remainder of the year the pit at Plash Drove, Wisbech St. Mary was utilized by the two Councils. In the middle of the year a new John Deere Lanz tractor/bulldozer caterpillar was brought into use on this tip, its function, to properly control tipping the refuse. On completion of tipping at Plash Drove, the vehicle will be transferred to the operations on the Wisbech Canal.

The existing collection area was again increased during the year. Each increase however, makes itself increasingly felt and when it is realised that together with refuse collection, a salvage system is operated, it can be appreciated how well the refuse collectors do their job.

## FOOD -

There was no change in regard to food premises generally, premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream, and those used in connection with the sale of Milk.

All food premises in the district were inspected and occupiers were requested to give attention to contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Samples of Ice Cream of the 'softie', type were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. The samples were found satisfactory.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958 -

The 1st July was the appointed day under the Act when two of the existing slaughterhouses in the area ceased to operate. The district after this date is to be served by the slaughterhouse owned and operated by Mr. N. Gagen of Gorefield. Prior to this date no difficulty was experienced in the inspection of all animals slaughtered for human consumption in the three slaughterhouses in the district. All meat in the Gorefield slaughterhouse is inspected and a pleasant degree of co-operation is forthcoming from the occupier.



## CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960 -

Licences for sites for single caravans were issued in respect of 6 caravans. A licence was also issued for a site of twelve caravans at Sutton Road, Leverington, subject to the Conditions set out in the Model Standards for such caravan sites.

## RODENT CONTROL -

Towards the end of the year it was noted that a phenomenal upsurge in the rat population had occurred, by some quirk the balance of nature had been upset, this condition applied equally to the whole East Anglian area. In December a Sub-Committee was set up by the Council to investigate steps to be taken to deal with the problem, at the same time plans were laid to deal with rats in the Wisbech Canal.

Under existing arrangements a part-time operator deals regularly with Council property including tips and sewage plants. Advice and instruction are given to the public by the department necessitated either through complaint or if found during routine inspections of property.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

1961

1.1.61 to 31.12.61	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed:	127	-	-	155	625	-
Number Inspected:	127	-	-	155	625	-
<u>All diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned:	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:	14	-	-	7	52	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci:	11.0	-	-	4.5	8.3	-
<u>Tuberculosis only -</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:	4	-	-	-	4	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis:	.8	-	-	-	.6	-
<u>Cysticercosis -</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1947 and 1948.  
Part 1 of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Inspect ions (4)	Number of Written Notices (5)	Occ. Prs'ctd. (6)	M/c Line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sects. 1,2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities:	1	29	30	-	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority:	2	27	32	-	-	2
iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers premises)	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total	-	56	62	-	-	-

2. No defects were discovered during the year.







